

Alaska Health Care Commission
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Support-for-Service Programs

What are the different types?

What are their outcomes?

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Support-for-Service Programs

Programs that, in exchange for a period of service in a needy area, provide health practitioners with either . . .

- o educational scholarships
- o educational loans
- o repayment of educational loans
- o direct incentives (\$\$ payments)

“Typical” (fictitious) Loan Repayment Program

- **Where:** Nevada, Department of Health
- **Funding:** state general revenues, \$2M/yr,
~ 70 practitioners
- **Eligibles:** physicians, dentists, PAs, NPs
- **Benefits:** \$20,000 educational loan repayment each year;
\$80,000 lifetime max
- **Service required:** work in a designated shortage area;
see all patients, including Medicaid and uninsured
- **Contract duration:** 2 years; renewable once

How Many Programs?

Depends what you count:

- **1996: 41 states funded 82 programs for physicians, PAs, NPs**
- **2008: 34 states offered NHSC “SLRPs”— joint state-federal funding**
- **2004: 29 LRP’s for dentists**

Total Counts of Practitioners Nationwide

State programs (1996, all types) physicians, NPs, PAs	1,676
NHSC (2008, Schol. and LRP) all disciplines	2,790
NHSC joint state-fed (2008, LRP) all disciplines	557
IHS (2008) all disciplines	~250

Types of Support-for-Service Programs

Type	Who/When	Use of Funds	Service	Penalties
Scholarship	Students			
Loan service opt	Students			
Loan Repayment	Practicing			
Direct Incentive	Practicing			

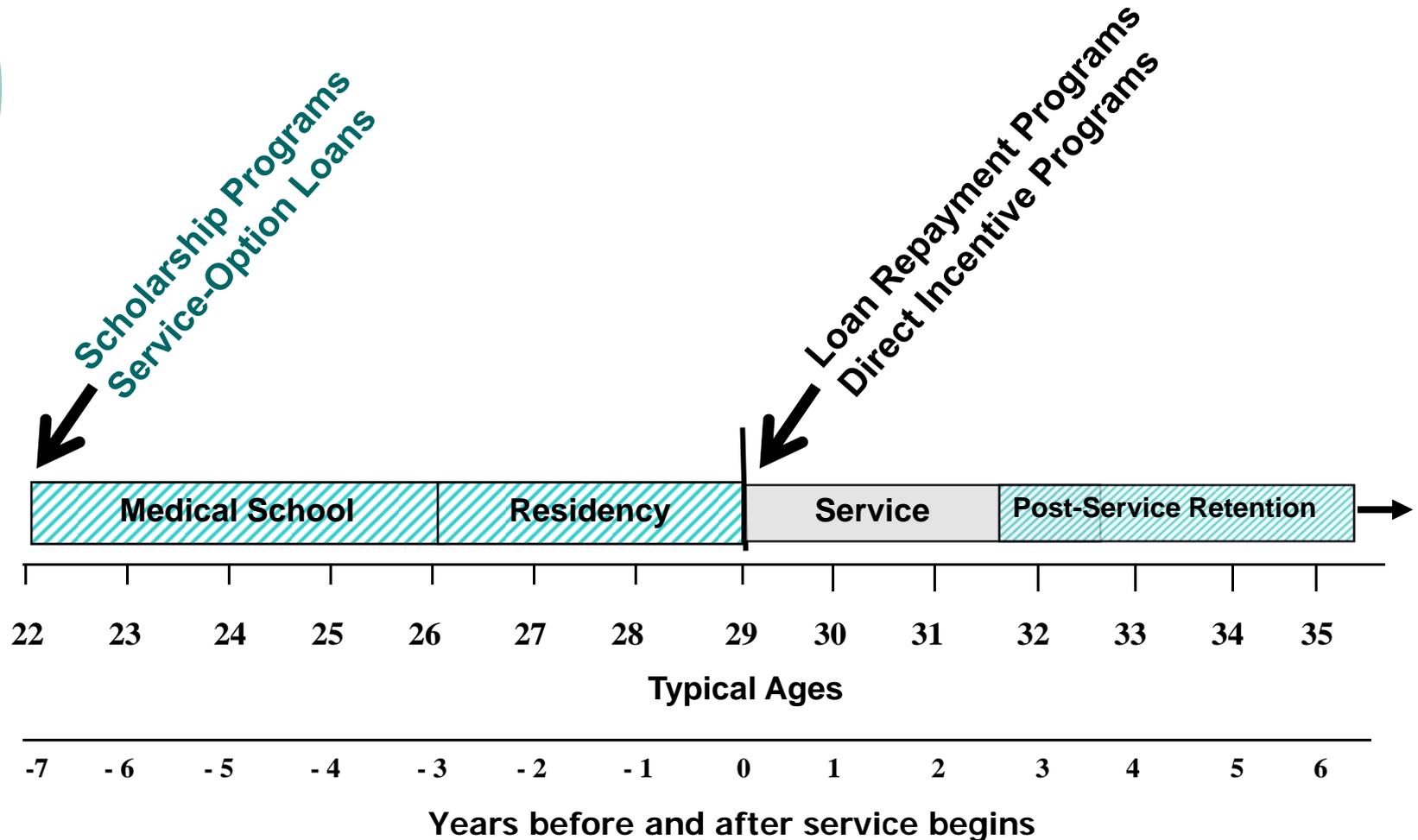
Types of Support-for-Service Programs

Type	Who/When	Use of Funds	Service	Penalties
Scholarship	Students	Training	Required	Heavy
Loan service opt	Students	Training	Optional	Modest
Loan Repayment	Practicing			
Direct Incentive	Practicing			

Types of Support-for-Service Programs

Type	Who/When	Use of Funds	Service	Penalties
Scholarship	Students	Training	Required	Heavy
Loan service opt	Students	Training	Optional	Modest
Loan Repayment	Practicing	Repay loans	Required	None
Direct Incentive	Practicing	Anything	Required	None

When Physicians Commit to Programs of the Various Types



Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

	# prog.	
Scholarship	24	
Loan w/service opt	9	
Loan Repayment	24	
Direct Incentive	7	

Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

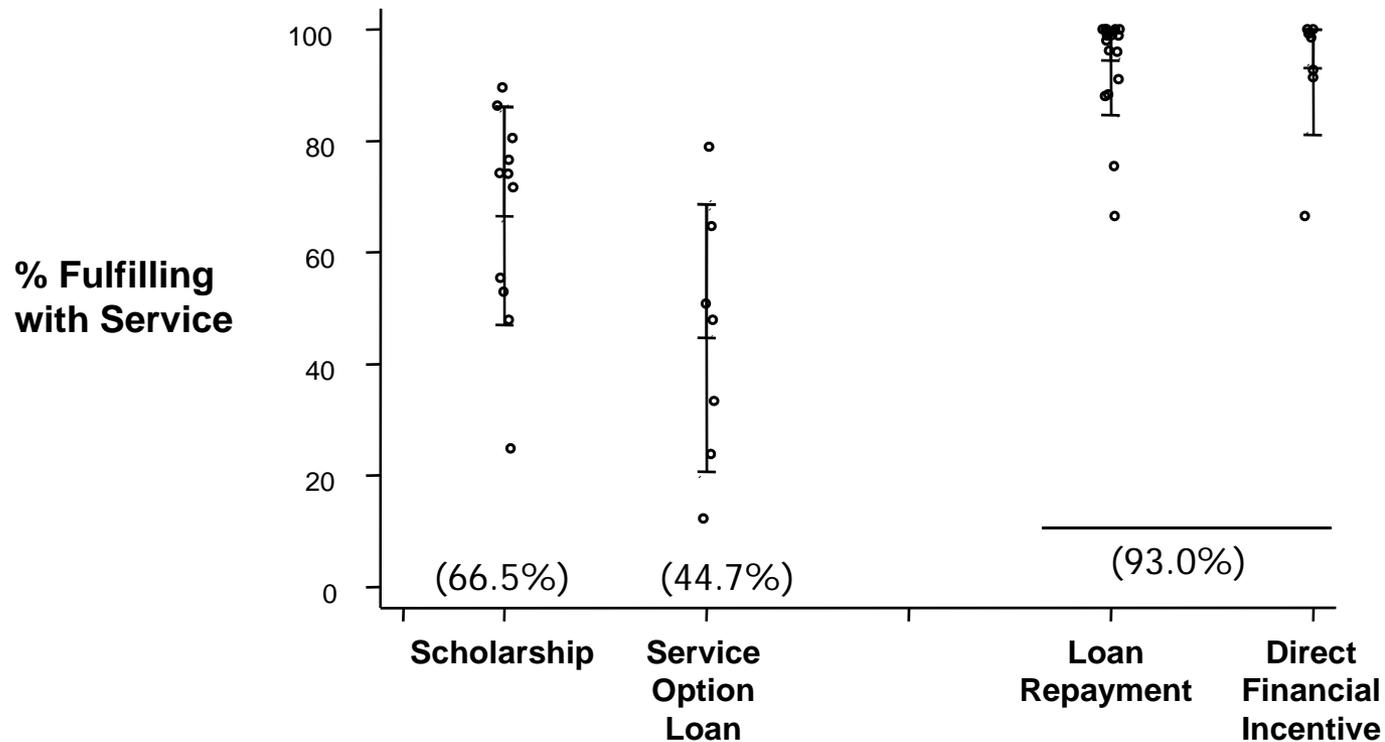
Which has highest service completion rate?

	# prog.	% who serve	
Scholarship	24		
Loan w/service opt	9		
Loan Repayment	24		
Direct Incentive	7		

Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

	# prog.	% who serve	
Scholarship	24	63	
Loan w/service opt	9	41	
Loan Repayment	24	94	
Direct Incentive	7	93	

Programs' Service Obligation Completion Rates (n=64)



Bars denote group means +/- standard deviations; $p < .001$

Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

Which has more satisfied participants?

	# prog.	% who serve	% very satisfied
Scholarship	24	63	
Loan w/service opt	9	41	
Loan Repayment	24	94	
Direct Incentive	7	93	
Non-Obligated	NA	NA	35

Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

	# prog.	% who serve	% very satisfied
Scholarship	24	63	35
Loan w/service opt	9	41	52
Loan Repayment	24	94	47
Direct Incentive	7	93	39
Non-Obligated	NA	NA	35

Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

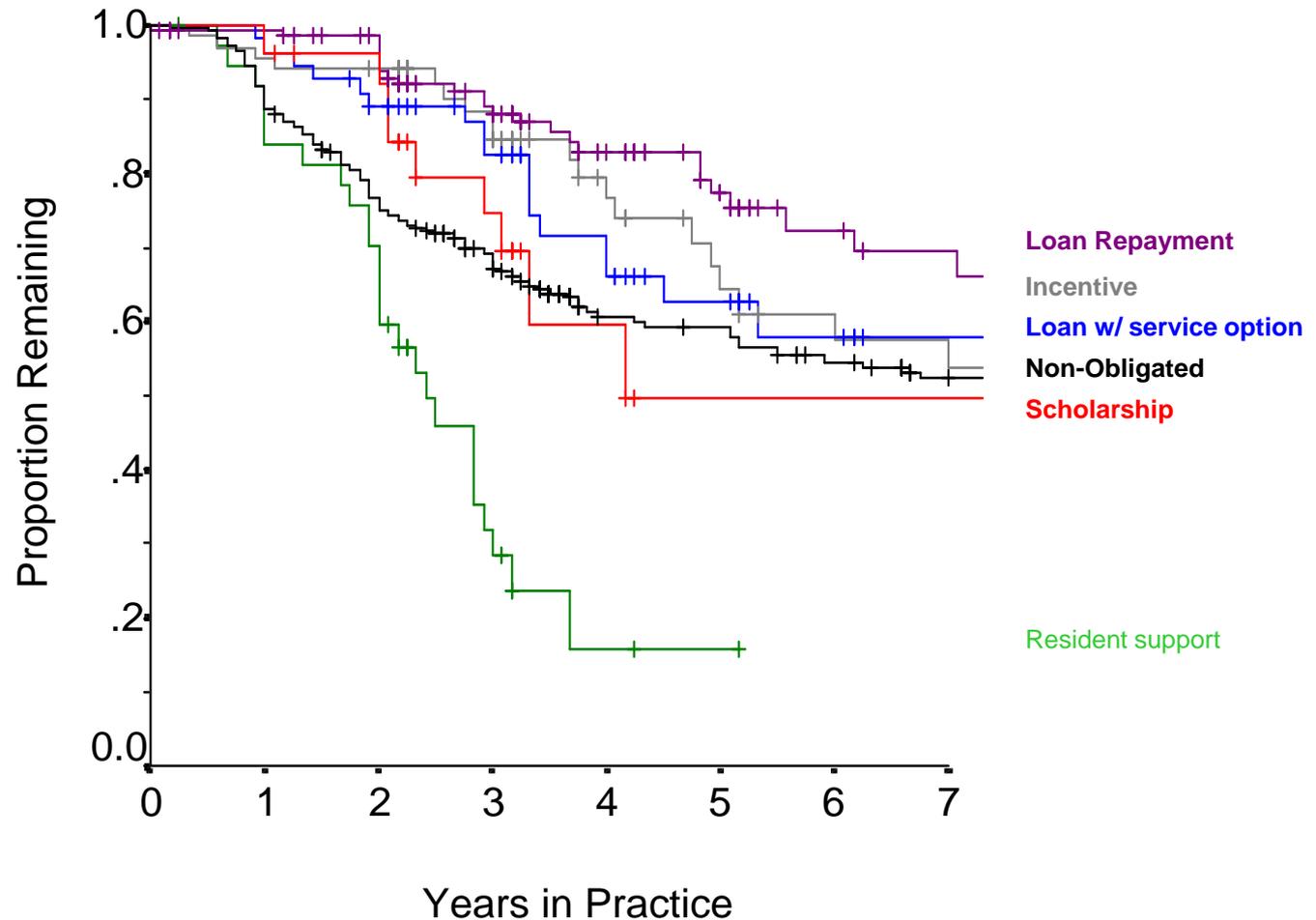
How long retained?

	# prog.	% who serve	% very satisfied	% retained 6 yrs
Scholarship	24	63	35	
Loan w/service opt	9	41	52	
Loan Repayment	24	94	47	
Direct Incentive	7	93	39	
Non-Obligated	NA	NA	35	55

Outcomes of 64 State Programs for Physicians

	# prog.	% who serve	% very satisfied	% retained 6 yrs
Scholarship	24	63	35	30
Loan w/service opt	9	41	52	65
Loan Repayment	24	94	47	69
Direct Incentive	7	93	39	57
Non-Obligated	NA	NA	35	55

Service-Site Retention of Physicians in State Programs

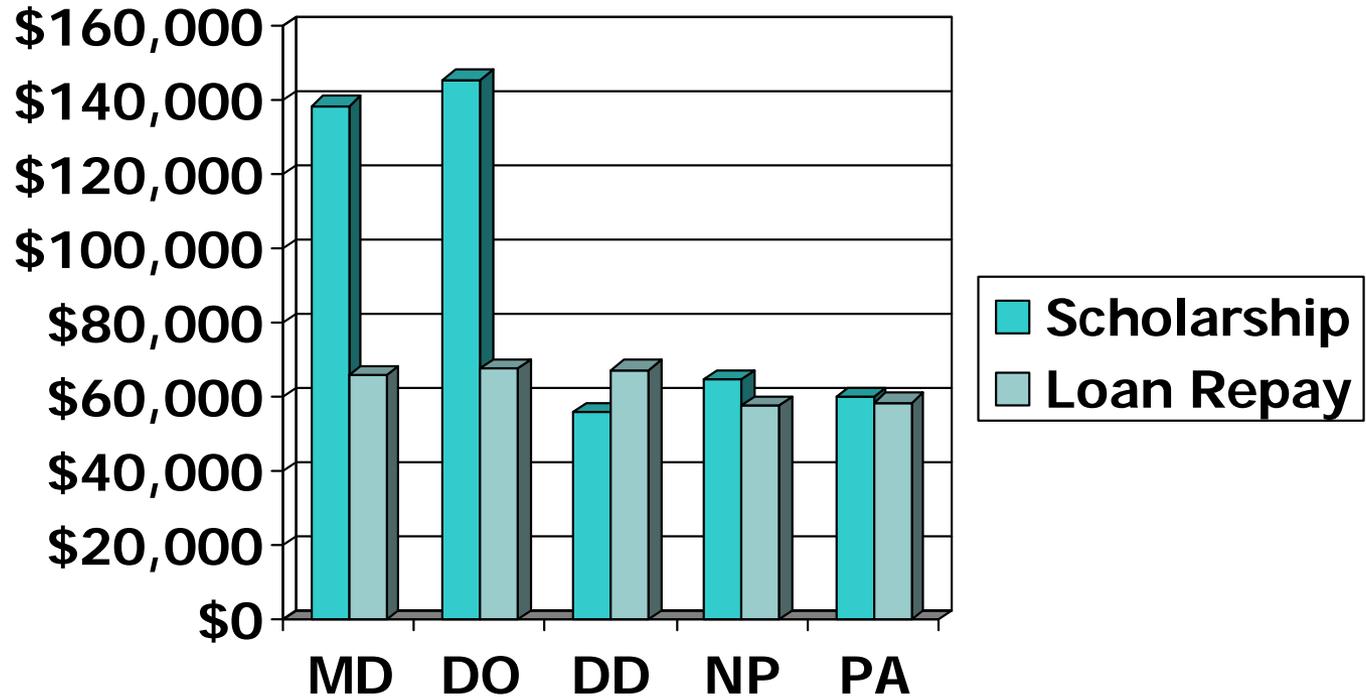


Community Characteristics by Type of State Program, 1996

	Median cnty PC doc- to-pop ratio	Av % Pts w/Medicaid or uninsured
Scholarship	82	41%
Service-Option Loan	76	43%
Loan Repayment	91	48%
Direct Fin Incentive	64	55%

LRP vs. Scholarship Program Costs

2001 NHSC costs



NHSC data

Overview of benefits/weaknesses of the program types (mix is best)

o Service option loan

- + target students; doesn't force service; good retention
- only target AK natives entering med school (~40/yr?); must accept that half will pay off loan with \$\$

o Loan repayment

- + target 58K recent grads nationwide w/ debt over \$50K; good service completion rates and good retention
- compete with many others offering LRP

o Direct Incentive

- + target 750K physicians nationwide (older, w/o debt); can restrict placements to very needy communities
- less familiar

Questions?

